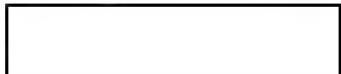


17 January 1966

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Nigeria: [Loyal] troops under army commander Ironsi appear to have regained control of the capital city of Lagos from the rebel military elements who staged the 15 January coup attempt, but elsewhere the situation is still unclear.

A partially attended meeting of the federal cabinet turned over temporary supreme authority yesterday to Ironsi. Conditions and services in Lagos were reported returning to normal. However, a cabinet member and Prime Minister Balewa are apparently still hostages of the rebels.

*Ironsi has announced that the military government has suspended the offices of president and prime minister and the parliament, as well as regional governors and premiers and the regional legislatures.

Reports reaching the US Embassy in Lagos indicate that loyalist troops have also taken over in Ibadan and Enugu--the capitals of the Western and Eastern regions--and in Kano, where one of Nigeria's two international airports is located. As the situation has evolved, Kaduna, the northern regional capital, has become a stronghold of the rebellion.

At Kaduna, Major Nzeogwu, the apparent leader of the local revolutionary council, told the US consul on 15 January that the coup move, which was clearly well organized and coordinated among army elements in Lagos and the regional centers, was engineered by younger, middle-ranking officers. The stated purpose was to eliminate politicians and political parties because of "corruption and tribalism!" Their move was probably triggered largely by dissatisfaction over the persisting intratribal turmoil in Western Nigeria and the repressive role the army has been called on to play there since the disputed regional election last October.

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The rebels appear to have tribal backgrounds which suggest that they also probably shared the basic resentments and frustrations of southern civilian political elements over the increasing predominance within the federal structure of conservative northern Muslim aristocrats. So far, however, there is no evidence of a direct connection between the coup leaders and any civilians.

Whatever the immediate outcome of the present situation, it will have some profound effects. Any restoration of the status quo ante can only be partial inasmuch as it appears confirmed that northern regional premier Ahmadu Bello and western premier Akintola were killed at the outset. As head of the party which rules in the north and controls the federal machinery, Bello was probably the most powerful political leader in the country. His removal from the scene automatically introduces basic uncertainties as to the future shape of things in the key Northern Region.

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Dominican Republic: Rebel leader Caamano refuses to leave the country until the provisional government assures the safety of his rank-and-file followers who are to remain.

A strike by telephone workers has disrupted international and domestic long-distance service. The shutdown began on 13 January when employees of the US-owned Dominican Telephone Company failed to report for work following the firing on 12 January of five principal union leaders. Company officials had charged the union leaders with aiding last week's illegal general strike.

Statements calling for armed action and criticizing scheduled elections in the Dominican Republic by Dominican delegates attending the Tri-Continent Conference in Havana have generated increased Dominican public interest in the conference. Last week the government barred the return of the Dominican delegation, numbering at least five, presumably on the grounds of violating passport restrictions on travel to Communist countries.

On 14 January Radio Havana broadcast a speech by Guido Gil, who identified himself as president of the Dominican delegation. Following a short diatribe against the United States and the "imperialist puppet government in the Dominican Republic," Gil vowed that "we will return and we will fight!"

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Indonesia: Sukarno and his political allies are again appealing to the public to give the President a free hand in solving the country's problems.

In a speech on 15 January to representatives of the army-sponsored demonstrators protesting high prices and food shortages, Sukarno was generally conciliatory. However, he blamed NECOLIM--his acronym for neocolonialism, colonialism, and imperialism--for provoking the demonstrations. Yesterday First Deputy Premier Subandrio repeated this charge, called on the people to rally around Sukarno, and stated that the President's long-awaited "political solution" to the four-month-old crisis would be announced "in the next few days."

There is no sign, however, that Sukarno is willing to acquiesce to the demonstrators' demand that he dismiss leftist members of his unwieldy cabinet.

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NOTES

India: Indira Gandhi, minister of information and broadcasting and daughter of the late prime minister Nehru, apparently has been chosen by most key Congress Party leaders as their candidate for a successor to Shastri. Former finance minister Morarji Desai, who is determined to remain a contender "to the bitter end," may attempt to force the issue to a secret vote when the party's 540 parliamentarians meet on 19 January to make the formal selection. Although Desai until now has been unable to gain the support of the powerful leaders, he probably feels his chances for selection would be improved by this procedure.

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USSR-Iran: Iran's acceptance of a \$290 million, 12-year Soviet credit is the latest development in Moscow's efforts to establish closer relations with Tehran. The agreement covers the construction of a steel mill and a machine tool plant and assistance in building a natural gas pipeline from Iranian fields to the USSR. Gas supplied through the pipeline will enable Iran to repay the Soviet loan and to expand its trade with the USSR.

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*Cuba: The Tri-Continent Conference, which met in Havana from 3-14 January, created a secretariat in Havana to function as interim headquarters of a new People's Solidarity Organization for Asia, Africa, and Latin America. A committee to "promote, increase, and coordinate" national liberation movements in the three continents was also created. China apparently succeeded in temporarily preventing the establishment of a permanent tricontinental body--which is to be created in Cairo in 1968--and in preserving the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization which is scheduled to meet in Peking in 1967.

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The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council

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The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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